

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 324

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the pastors and members of Historical First Baptist Church on the occasion of the church's 125th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of Tennessee are crucial elements contributing to the social and spiritual health of our State, and the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize significant milestones in the lives of those communities of faith; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable religious congregations that, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the good people of Historical First Baptist Church comprise one such congregation, and this June they will be celebrating the church's 125 years of service to the Lord and their community; and

WHEREAS, the rich history of Historical First Baptist Church dates back to 1885, when it was established under the name Happy Hollow Church; and

WHEREAS, with congregational input and expectant prayer, the forward-thinking leaders of this flourishing congregation decided to erect a new sanctuary in 1917 and rename it the First Baptist Missionary Church; and

WHEREAS, one tragic Wednesday morning in June of 1932, the church was destroyed by fire, leaving the flock without a place to worship or a pastor to follow; and

WHEREAS, equipped with a deep and abiding faith and a vision to impact the world for Christ, these humble servants of the Lord rebuilt their house of worship and continued their worthy mission of spreading the Good News to its members and to the world at large; and

WHEREAS, upon learning theirs was the oldest African-American church in the Millington area, the congregation voted to change its name to Historical First Baptist Church, honoring its rich heritage and its noble purpose to tell of Christ's life, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and coming, namely "His Story;" and

WHEREAS, this church could not have become such an integral and historical part of Millington had it not been for the dedicated service of a great many pastors who have faithfully guided the church through the many years of its existence; and

WHEREAS, today, the congregants of Historical First Baptist Church are blessed with spiritual leadership from Pastor Quintin R. Smith, a man of integrity and character who has shepherded his congregation through both the joys and the challenges of life for the past eighteen years; and

WHEREAS, a powerful tool in the service of the Kingdom of God, Historical First Baptist Church is one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, Historical First Baptist Church has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love for 125 years, serving as a bastion of faith and outreach to the people of Millington, the surrounding area, and the world; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join in celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Historical First Baptist Church, thank the good people of this remarkable congregation and their ministers for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.